

The Salt Lake Herald.

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THE HERALD COMPANY.

THE ELECTION PRIMARY.

The decision of the Democratic county committee to apply to this city the primary election system for the election of delegates to county and state conventions is a commendable step in the direction of primary reform. The last state legislature enacted a measure providing for primary elections, but left its enforcement to the option of the political parties. A weak point in the law is the absence of the necessary rules and regulations to make the system operative, the formulation of such rules being left to the party adopting the system. But these matters of detail can easily be worked out by the county committee.

Of course there are always objections to the introduction of any measure of reform, and the primary election system cannot be adopted without opposition. But all of the objections raised can be pretty fairly met by the statement that this system is in successful operation in all of the most progressive states of the Union, and in no state in which it has been adopted is there any thought of returning to the old mass primary method. Some of the states have even gone further and provided by statute for the nomination of all candidates, including state officials, by primary election, thus absolutely abolishing the nominating conventions. To dispute the wisdom or desirability of the primary election system is to discredit the verdict of half of the states in the Union.

Of course it is possible, even under the election system, for jobs to be carried out and states put through, but it is much more difficult for the politicians and bosses to control the primary than under the old system, because the better element of citizenship is encouraged to participate, and the natural result is that a better class of citizens are selected as delegates. The Herald can see no serious objection to the introduction of this system here, and it is fitting that the Democratic party, ever in the fore in all matters of progress and reform, should be instrumental in introducing the plan in this state. The county committee can safely be entrusted with the preparation of an effective working plan, and The Herald believes that a trial of the system will so demonstrate its superiority over old methods that it will be extended over the state by mandatory statute.

C. P. HUNTINGTON'S DEATH.

C. P. Huntington's death yesterday closes one of the most remarkable careers in all the history of this country. He was born in Connecticut in 1821, and would have been 79 years old had he lived until next October. With prodigious physical strength, he began his career on no capital but his own industry and shrewdness. He had no schooling after he was fourteen, but his travels as an itinerant merchant gave him a knowledge of human nature that proved more profitable than anything a pedagogue could have taught.

After a few years as a merchant, in 1849 he started for California with \$1,200. Detained three months on the isthmus, he walked back and forth twenty times, quadrupling his capital by trade. At Sacramento he went into partnership with Mark Hopkins, selling miners' supplies, and laid the foundation for his career as a railroad builder. The history of the Central Pacific is known. After its construction followed the Southern Pacific, and when he died C. P. Huntington was worth \$100,000,000, controlled 5,000 miles of railroad and was the Napoleon of the railroad world.

Whether Mr. Huntington's life was a success depends upon the point of view. He was the best hated man in California, probably in the country. His friends never accused him of scrupling to corrupt legislation or buy support for an undertaking. More openly than any other man in all the West, he practiced the maxim that every man has his price. He debauched coast politics until a man of reputation hardly dared accept office or judicial position. He had not even the saving grace of the charitable man. If he had any dear friends outside his immediate family no one ever knew it.

Huntington's property stands as a monument to the use of all that is detestable in public life. He walked to triumph over the destruction of other men's character, their fortunes, their ambitions. He was a great man as achievements go, but the poorest slave on earth who has lived honorably and died with the regard of his fellow men has made more of a success of life.

THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

The return from Europe of John D. Rockefeller, president of the Standard Oil company, has led to renewed speculation concerning the amount of his income. The estimates vary all the way from \$100,000 daily, but no competent authority has ventured to place it below the five-figure mark. Everybody agrees that Mr. Rockefeller is the richest man on earth today, and probably the richest man of all ages.

Solomon's total wealth, figured on a conservative basis, is placed at about \$17,500,000, or a little more than half the New Yorker's income for one year. The czar of Russia's yearly revenue is about \$12,000,000; Emperor William's, nearly \$4,000,000; Queen Victoria's, \$1,925,000. All the crowned heads of Europe together do not get as much income in a year as does this one American.

If Mr. Rockefeller tried he could not devise means to spend a tenth of his revenue, supposing he were an extravagant man. Living simply as he does, he probably finds difficulty in disposing of one one-hundredth of his "earnings," even with the rapacious Harper at his elbow to suggest gifts to Chicago university. On any basis of calculation one may take the natural increase of the Standard Oil magnate's wealth is enough to absorb in a very few years every great industrial enterprise in the United States. He already owns heavy interest in about twenty-five of the largest railroads in the country, controlling many of them. He owns several of the largest banks. He and his associates control at least two of the greatest life insurance corporations, with their enormous aggregations of capital.

The same combination owns immense iron and steel interests, steamship companies, street railways, gas and electric lighting corporations, the Amalgamated Copper combine of Montana and other undertakings too numerous to be covered in one publication. Through J. Pierpont Morgan they control the financial operations of the United States treasury and dictate the financial legislation of the country. If they were to stop active operations and simply let their wealth accumulate, a few years would see them as absolute masters of the means of production and distribution in this country as though they were crowned heads with the authority of the czar of Russia.

If such power, largely secured by legislative influence and corruption, is not a menace to the independence of every citizen of this nation, then an autocracy is more desirable than a republic. Whether Mr. Rockefeller and his associates are beyond control of the people is to be decided very soon. Give them a year or two more of such pickings as they now control and they will be able to laugh at the efforts of \$30,000,000 free people to govern themselves without the consent of Rockefeller.

PIG IRON AND POLITICS.

Pittsburg papers are very much concerned over the condition of the iron and steel trade, with its allied industry, the tin-plate business. The immediate cause of their concern is the refusal of the Republic Iron & Steel company and the American Tin-plate company, two of the greatest of the trusts, to accept the wage scale prepared by their employees. The manufacturers claim, with some truth, that the condition of the market will not justify the wage scale proposed; that sales are being made almost at cost now, and that the market conditions do not warrant a continuance of the wages paid. The tin-plate makers also object to a footnote in the scale relating to the adjustment of grievances. The employees insist they are asking less than their share of the trusts' prosperity.

The seriousness of the deadlock is recognized by the national Republican committee, which has brought pressure to bear on the two trusts and compelled them to arrange a meeting with the representatives of the employees, the meeting to be held in Detroit yesterday or today. Irrespective of political considerations, it is to be hoped the conference will result satisfactorily for both sides. A strike or lockout in the iron and steel trade would be a national calamity, involving as it would almost every other industry and disturbing trade conditions generally.

But no matter how the meeting results, the country is treated to the edifying spectacle of a campaign committee interfering in a purely business matter—and for what? To show the trusts that a refusal to settle with their employees must be injurious to the Republican party, and through that party inflict injury on the trusts which are Republican products. The occasion will also furnish opportunity for Mr. Hanna to point out the very obvious fact that now is the time for the trusts to subscribe to the Republican campaign fund and so maintain their monopoly of legislative favors. And still there are people who claim the trust question is not a party matter!

The condition of the Utah livestock ranges is such as to cause the gravest apprehension among the owners of sheep and cattle—and fears are entertained that they will be much worse during the coming winter. So great has been the drought that the growth of vegetation has been insufficient for summer feed, and flockmasters are confronted by bare ranges for the winter. It is a situation of deep concern to the entire state.

The Old Soldiers' National Bryan club of Denver has addressed an open letter to their comrade, William McKinley, in which this sentence occurs: "We are reminded that you were by public opinion involuntarily forced into a war of humanity in Cuba, and that you voluntarily and zealously now prosecute one against humanity in the Philippines." McKinley's war record could not be set forth in terser terms.

A New York burglar was caught because a swearing parrot waked the family with his oaths. The burglar was so paralyzed with envy of the parrot's vocabulary he forgot to run. Now the demand for sailor's parrots has got clear beyond the supply. There is no moral to the tale.

Bill Glasemann says he has no objection to anybody else's being a candidate for congress. Neither have the voters of Utah.

SOCIETY NOTES.

Miss Geddes has invitations out for a luncheon on Thursday.

Dr. and Mrs. Paulz Mr. and Mrs. Post and Mr. Fields will leave the latter part of the week for Snake River.

Mrs. John Roberts of Detroit, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. Sears, leaves this week for her home.

Miss Welly and her guest, Miss Hunter, have returned from their outing on the Weber.

Miss Francis McChrystal of Eureka is the guest of Miss Sadie McChrystal.

Mr. James Clinton left last night for Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Sadler and Mr. James Sadler leave Saturday night for the Yellowstone.

Weekly Crop Bulletin.

Section Director H. Murdoch of the weather bureau has issued the following bulletin for the week ending August 13:

"The week was without rainfall. The mean temperature was about two degrees below normal. Light frost occurred on the 10th, but did no damage. To the north westerly winds were times of high clouds, especially in the general; considerable fruit, especially apples and pears, was blown from the trees in some localities and the hauling of hay was somewhat interfered with. The second crop of lucerne is nearly all cut and stored; in Cache and Carbon counties, it has made an average yield, but elsewhere, as stated before, the yield has not been more than half the usual amount. Thrashing progressed rapidly under favorable conditions. Corn, potatoes and sugar beets continue in good condition with few exceptions. Tomatoes are ripening and will soon be plentiful."

A MIGHTY POWER.

(New York World.)

The Standard Oil company has paid \$38,000,000 in dividends this far this year and will have paid by the end of the year \$48,000,000—48 per cent upon its capital stock, and three or four times as much upon the actual investment.

This sum is \$2,000,000 greater than the dividends of all the national banks combined. It is \$3,000,000 more than the government's annual disbursement for the national debt. It represents a 3 1/2 per cent dividend upon a capital of \$1,371,000,000—a sum greater than the value of all the gold and silver, coined and uncoined, publicly and privately held in the whole United States.

And this is only a part of the power of the little group of Standard Oil magnates. There are their ten great banks and trust companies, with annual deposits of \$42,000,000, and annual income of \$2,000,000—a financial "combine" that controls the money market of the United States more perfectly than a metemorph controls his electric car.

Here is an enormous, an inconceivable deposit of power in the hands of a few. In presence of this mighty structure, dominating the industrial, commercial and financial field of the nation, it is impossible to recall the sinister and significant sentence from the letter of the vice president of the great Standard Oil National City bank to the secretary of the treasury:

"The National City Bank, New York, June 5, 1897.

My Dear Mr. Gage: * * * I will take the pains to look at our list of directors you will see that we also have very great political claims in view of what was done during the canvass last year. Yours very truly,

Hon. Lyman J. Gage, United States Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Does anybody imagine that the "Standard Oil crowd" have lost their interest in politics?

GOLD STANDARD IN INDIA.

The single gold standard, now one of the slogans of the Hanna party in this nation, has cursed the masses of the people in every country across which it has trailed its serpent form. Nine-tenths of the people of England are opposed to it because it makes the dollar dear and the products of labor cheap. Its withering curse now rests with terrific force upon the people of India.

Mr. H. M. Hyndman, an Englishman living in London and a postmaster on Indian affairs, in a recent article in the New York Journal, charges the awful famine now raging in India to the greed and avarice of the British, and his article shows that much of the suffering and woe of the people is due to fastening on their necks the odious single gold standard. Mr. Hyndman plainly says: "We deliberately manufacture famines in India," and that "nothing that the British ever did or said has done more to the height of their power; no injustice as the Spaniards ever inflicted upon Mexico and South America, was so horrible in its consequences to the subject population as that which we English are doing in British India today."

The average of the British India population is \$7.50 in gold, or \$73.50 a year for a family of five. This meagre income in the best years keeps the people on the verge of starvation. Out of this starving population Great Britain squeezes \$150,000,000 a year in the way of taxes. The gold standard is collected before the crops are gathered and must be paid in gold, and hence the people must resort to the money lender from whom they pay exorbitant rates of interest. Thus they are kept always at the starvation point through the gold standard which has taken away their silver rupees, and when there is a failure of crops, gaunt human beings starve by the million. All this time breadstuffs are shipped out from India that would keep the people from starving if they had money with which to buy it. The single gold standard is all very well for the plutocrats, but it is death to the masses.

WHEN FIRST SHOW COMES

(Chicago Daily News.)

They're coming to the depot—fifty vans are in the street. And I hear the dizzy clatter of a thousand busy feet. Then I hear the bossman's orders—then I see the riggers swing. And I know what the circus—the same as every spring.

The stars are in the heavens, the dawn is yet to come. Yet I hear many axes and the never-ceasing hum. And I see the solid cages, some thirty in a row. And I hear of gaudy coaches, each inscribed, "The Greatest Show."

I watch the dreamy hustle, the stars are on the wane. And the line of big quadrupeds leave the special circus train.

And I see the yawning giraffe, with his rubber neck so lank. And a herd of eastern Jumbos just about to walk the plank.

I see the sea of canvas, the sun is shining bright. And the tented show is ready for the matinee at night.

The sawdust will be flying, pink lemonade will flow. The same old rancid peanuts and the very same old show.

Thoughtful.

(Indianapolis Press.)

"No," said the lady prisoner, "I cannot show you the beauty of the world in the vitrol, as it was broken in the fray, but before I used it I had it photographed. I will give you one of the pictures at once."

Such thoughtful appreciation of the details of journalism is sure to raise in behalf of the accused a powerful influence not to be ignored.

Increasing Tendency to Divorce.

(Judge Henry M. Shepard, of Illinois, in Chicago Tribune.)

Figures concerning petitions for divorces in Chicago which have been published recently in the Tribune, are made startling by comparison with the number of marriage licenses issued in the same period of six months from last January.

It is a serious thought that in every five happy couples there is one destined to the misery of the divorce. If we multiply that one miserable pair by an average number of children made wretched by the divorce of their parents we approximate closely just as aggregate of the happy ones. I do not remember to have ever known or seen a divorced man or woman before I attained manhood. And yet today it is not only not uncommon, but rather quite the ordinary thing to see in circles of society such as my youth was spent in women and men who were once sworn to cherish and defend one another all their lives, now pass each other by as strangers. And I presume my experience in that respect is shared by many.

This, however, should not lead anybody to think that divorces, or equivalent proceedings, are a new thing—it may without hesitation be asserted that they are greatly on the increase.

The right of the husband to put aside his wife is of ancient origin, and precedes by a long period the right of the wife to repudiate her husband. Just as has been remarked, as force always precedes justice.

Probably I must be accepted that a wise system of divorce is absolutely essential to what we understand as purity of life by men and women. The fatal consequences of the indissolubility of marriage—adultery and concubinage—are now so strikingly shown, according to the statistics, as in those countries where divorce is prohibited. It has been wisely said, and the remark is as applicable to the subject of divorce as to any other, that laws to be obeyed must not do too great violence to human nature.

Where a proper mean lies between easy facility on the one hand and prohibition on the other, in the matter of divorce, is something about which secular lawmakers and divine law enforcers will probably continue to differ as they have done in the past.

SHORT STORIES.

The Great De Reszke-Saleza Duel.

(Chicago Times-Herald.)

We have just received the following account of a terrible duel between Jean De Reszke and Albert Saleza, the celebrated tenors:

"Promptly at a signal from the seconds the enraged duellists, who had hired a hall for the occasion, sprang forward and began a battle that was to end fatally for one and perhaps both of them. Saleza tore off a bar of 'Because I love you,' which seemed to strike De Reszke somewhere in the region of the stomach. For a moment he was staggered, but, quickly recovering, he fiercely began his favorite song from 'Rigoletto.' The seconds pulled their fingers in their ears and got back as far as possible into the corners of the hall. Saleza next tried an 'Ave,' and in about a minute he had his Polish opponent going around in a circle."

"But De Reszke had evidently undergone some hard training. At all events, he turned presently, and like a tiger about to spring upon his prey started on the 'Waterloo' march."

"Saleza sank down upon one knee and gasped. He looked at the seconds appealingly, as if he would have them order him to proceed. But the seconds, who were recovering, he fiercely began his favorite song from 'Rigoletto.' The seconds pulled their fingers in their ears and got back as far as possible into the corners of the hall. Saleza next tried an 'Ave,' and in about a minute he had his Polish opponent going around in a circle."

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I might devise a code regulating the matter which my friend or neighbor might not be at all satisfied with. It would be either too lax or too stringent. Still, what we want and desire is as we may, the tendency of thought and action in this present age is to regard and treat the marriage tie much like a contract entered into by consent of parties—dissoluble at the will of the contracting persons.

Personally, I am positively opposed to such tendency, but I recognize its existence. If I had not better reason for my opposition than the deep interest that all society has in the children of marriages, it would be enough. That result of marriage tends so inextricably into every relation of human life as to forbid coming to such a doctrine in tones that nothing can resist. We must never drop below the doctrine that the contract of marriage is one of public concern, that shall never be dissolved except by consent of the public, through its organized tribunals, and for causes that the public shall deem to be safe and not opposed to the general welfare.

Montaigne, I believe it was, said that the more the marriage knot is tightened by taking away all means of dissolving it, the more the bonds of the will and affection are loosened. And this argument is often heard nowadays. But it has only the force of most epigrammatic sentences—that of sounding well. Take from it the reference to means of dissolution and nothing having less merit can be said on the subject.

Pure women and steadfast men will everywhere agree that the mere contemplation of the tender pledge, in anticipation or already made, of mutual fidelity and devotion by one to the other, to the exclusion of all else, and for life, does, by the tightening of the marriage knot, bind and strengthen the will and affections, and does not loosen them.

The mere thought of the sacredness and life-enduring nature of the obligation that binds one to the other "until death us do part" is an inspiration for the keeping together of the will and affections of the two who yoke in it, and for its loosening. I have not the patience to tell the one who would lighten the marriage tie, but have great pity and sympathy for them who are driven by unendurable breaches of duty and faith to seek freedom from it.

Wasting His Time.

(New York Sun.)

A young lawyer in this city has made frequent attempts to tell a story of his father's experience, and each time someone has accused him of repeating a humorous story which is still making the rounds of the newspapers. His father is a minister. Some years ago he went to a New England town to preach a sermon. He was a stranger to the congregation. There were the usual notices on his desk for him to read to the congregation. Among them was a funeral notice. When the minister began to read this notice with due solemnity, giving the hour when the deceased was to be buried and inviting the neighbors to the funeral, the congregation to be present, he was amazed to see the smile that went around the church. After the service a deacon came to him and asked:

"Where did you get that funeral notice?"

"It was with the other notices," said the minister. "What is the trouble? Isn't the man dead?"

"Dead," said the deacon. "Well he ought to be. We buried him a year and a half ago."

In some way the notice had turned up, possibly from the leaves of the Bible. A paragraph about the incident was published in the local papers and it had vitality enough to travel all over the country. When the minister's son attempts to tell the story he is greeted with incredulous smiles, and if he asserts that it is true his listeners are very apt to say that it is a good story, but they have heard it before. "It goes to prove," says the lawyer, "how hard it is to tell the truth."

One Lawyer Enough.

(Chicago Chronicle.)

In Spain a blacksmith of a village murdered a man with his hammer and was hanged. The chief peasants of the place joined together and begged of the alcalde that the blacksmith might not be hung, because he was necessary to the place, which could not do without a blacksmith to shoe horses, mend wheels and such offices. But the alcalde said: "How, then, can I carry out the law? A laborer answered: 'Sir, there are two lawyers in the village, and for so small a place one is enough; you may hang the other!'"

Art.

(Detroit Journal.)

As the lovers in the play paused for a moment to take breath they distinctly heard the clatter of pursuing hoofs. "Let us away!" cried Guy, frantically.

But Maude drew back, and the distraught youth reeled as he divined the thought that was in her mind.

"Would you, in this supreme moment," he exclaimed, "stop to do a neat song and dance?"

"Yes," said Maude, very pale, but quite determined. "For I have a husband and six children to support!"

Oh, my countrymen! There is so little art for a sake!

Not Equal to the Demand.

(Chicago Tribune.)

"What can you do?" asked the manager of the professional baseball club. "I can impart a most pronounced trajectory motion to a leather sphere," replied the athlete just out of college. "What have you to do?"

"I want a man who can pitch a curved ball."

And they turned him down.

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